I CLAIM AS MY INVENTION:

1. A medical system architecture comprising:

at least one imaging modality that acquires medical examination images;

a computer workstation associated with said at least one imaging modality;

a data transfer device for transferring data and messages and said medical examination images between at least one client and at least one server;

a storage device connected to said data transfer device for storing at least said medical examination images;

at least one further computer workstation connected to said data transfer device for post-processing said data and said examination images; and

a proxy server in communication with said data transfer device for converting said messages between said at least one client and said at least one server according to predetermined transformation rules.

2. A medical system architecture as claimed in claim 1 wherein said data transfer device exchanges said data, examination images and messages according to the DICOM standard.

3. A medical system architecture as claimed in claim 1 comprising a rules memory, accessible by said proxy server, wherein said transformation rules are stored.

4. A medical system architecture as claimed in claim 1 wherein said proxy server comprises a software product separate from said data transfer device.

5. A medical system architecture as claimed in claim 1 wherein said proxy server operates at a same system node as said data transfer device.

6. A medical system architecture as claimed in claim 1 wherein said proxy server operates on a network node.

7. A method for exchanging messages between nodes of a network, comprising the steps of:

formulating messages at a first location which are to be transmitted to another location via a network, each of said messages having a content; and

manipulating the respective contents of said messages during transmission of said messages in said network using a computerized conversion routine employing predetermined transformation rules.

8. A method as claimed in claim 7 comprising exchanging said messages between a client and a server connected to said network.

9. A method as claimed in claim 7 comprising formulating said messages according to the DICOM standard.

10. A method as claimed in claim 7 comprising selectively reconfiguring said predetermined transformation rules as needed.

11. A method as claimed in claim 7 comprising storing said predetermined transformation rules in a rules memory, and executing said conversion routine to manipulate the respective contents of the messages in a proxy server having access to said rules memory.

12. A method as claimed in claim 7 wherein said network comprises a plurality of DICOM nodes, and wherein the step of manipulating the respective contents of said messages comprises manipulating the respective contents of said messages in a manner transparent to said DICOM nodes.